

(Draft – Awaiting Formal Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 210 Senate Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Senate Chair  
Rep. Johnny Anderson, House Chair  
Sen. J. Stuart Adams  
Sen. Wayne A. Harper  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
Sen. Evan J. Vickers  
Rep. Jacob L. Anderegg  
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson  
Rep. Spencer J. Cox  
Rep. Janice M. Fisher  
Rep. Gage Froerer

Rep. Don L. Ipson  
Rep. John Knotwell  
Rep. David E. Lifferth  
Rep. Daniel McCay  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Adams, Sen. Vickers, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

**2. HOV Lanes Created by a Highway Authority**

Mr. Carlos Braceras, Executive Director, Utah Department of Transportation, presented "Express Lanes 2013 Annual Report." Mr. Braceras indicated that the primary purpose of the express lanes is to increase carpooling in the state. He reported that the number of express lane users on I-15 has increased by 5% over the past year. He also commented on the use of variable rate fees, which are based on the level of congestion on the road at any given time.

**3. Transportation Funding Initiatives: Other States**

Mr. Brian Bean, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, presented "Transportation Funding Tools" and discussed different funding mechanisms used throughout the United States.

**4. Presentation: Midvalley Highway Construction Project**

Rep. Douglas V. Sagers and Mr. Jared Hamner, Executive Director, Tooele Chamber of Commerce, distributed and presented "Midvalley Highway, Tooele, Utah." Mr. Hamner provided the committee with an overview of the proposed construction of a new north-south highway in Tooele valley. Rep. Sagers and Mr. Hamner responded to committee members' questions.

Chair Anderson turned the gavel to Sen. Van Tassell.

**5. Response to Local Option Fuel User Fee Proposal**

Mr. Todd Bingham, President, Utah Manufacturers Association, distributed "Business Trade Association

Transportation Funding Policy" and noted that the association believes a comprehensive approach to transportation funding is necessary to adequately address transportation needs in the state.

Mr. Dave Davis, President, Utah Retail Merchants Association, and President, Utah Food Industry Association, discussed the importance of prioritization of transportation projects, statewide uniformity and simplicity in motor fuel tax collection and distribution, and maintaining competitive rates with surrounding states.

#### **6. Draft bill "Driver License Suspension Amendments"**

Rep. Sagers discussed provisions to draft legislation "Driver License Suspension Amendments" (2014FL-0225/007), which was distributed in the supplemental mailing packet.

**MOTION:** Rep. Ipson moved to recommend draft legislation "Driver License Suspension Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Adams, Rep. Froerer, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

#### **7. Draft bill "Uniform Driver License Act Amendments"**

Sen. Van Tassell discussed the provisions of draft legislation "Uniform Driver License Act Amendments" (2014FL-0491/003), which was distributed in the supplemental mailing packet.

**MOTION:** Rep. Ipson moved to recommend draft legislation "Uniform Driver License Act Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Adams, Rep. Froerer, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

#### **8. Draft bill "State Highway System Amendments"**

Ms. Halverson discussed the provisions of draft legislation "State Highway System Amendments" (2014FL-0564/004), which was distributed in the mailing packet.

**MOTION:** Sen. Harper moved to recommend draft legislation "State Highway System Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Adams, Sen. Vickers, Rep. Froerer, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

#### **9. Transportation Solutions to Air Quality Concerns**

This agenda item was not discussed.

#### **10. Draft bill "Motor and Special Fuel Tax Increase Amendments"**

Ms. Halverson reviewed the provisions of draft legislation "Motor and Special Fuel Tax Increase Amendments" (2014FL-0034/008), which was distributed in the supplemental mailing packet.

Rep. Jim Nielson, sponsor of the bill, distributed "Utah Fuel Taxes: Bringing Rates into the 21st Century" and "Gas Tax Revenue Outlook" and responded to committee members' questions.

Rep. Anderson noted that the focus of the committee during the 2013 interim has been to look at transportation planning and funding issues throughout the state with the understanding that recommendations from the committee will be discussed during the 2014 interim.

Ms. Rolayne Fairclough, Legislative Representative, AAA Utah, spoke in support of open discussion on the need for increased taxation, the difficulties associated with the indexing of gas taxes, and fees collected for transportation being applied to transportation needs. She also noted that when fuel taxes are raised, the price of other commodities also increases.

No action was taken on this item.

#### **11. Committee Business /Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Adams, Rep. Anderegg, Rep. Froerer, Rep. McCay, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

Chair Van Tassell adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.